

March 2, 2022

Testimony of Tiheba Bain
In Support of H.B. 5248 - Session Year 2022
An Act Concerning Collateral Consequences of
Criminal Convictions on Occupational Licensing

Thank you, Chairperson and members of the Committee, for providing me with the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 5248.

As a formerly incarcerated professional dedicated to empowering women and girls in efforts to end mass incarceration, I have both lived and witnessed the inequalities that lie within our current legislation.

I myself have faced difficulties of re-entry, within our current system that suppresses growth to successful reintegration. This bill was created to help remove the 500 barriers we endure everyday. My past should not and does not define me, it has strengthened me to be the change I want to see in my community and in the world. Discrimination is systemically disproportionate for Black and Latinx people returning to society as we are also incarcerated at unreasonably higher rates.

Though it may seem like I am excelling in my career in the social justice field. I still face many barriers when seeking employment, education, housing, public assistance, professional licensing, and more. HB 5248, is a bill which includes, but is not limited to occupational licenses. Let us also remember the regulatory and registry barriers that suppress as well.

Reentry barriers make it difficult for justice-impacted individuals and do not in any way reduce recidivism. In fact, it can lead back to the same struggles many started with. By passing HB5248, you will be making a much-needed difference and reduce the collateral consequences faced by so many.

Let HB5248 be “OUR” first step in reducing the collateral damage caused by a criminal conviction.

Thank you
Ms. Bain